

Attorney Docket No. 1-74168

REMARKS

New independent Claim 21 defines the invention as a method of forming an airbag assembly and trim component for a vehicle. The method includes providing a substrate defining an airbag door. An airbag chute for mounting the airbag assembly, and a hinge for retaining the airbag door on the substrate during deployment of an air bag are simultaneously over-molded.

New independent Claim 30 defines the invention as a method of forming an airbag assembly and trim component for a vehicle. The method includes providing a mold assembly having a mold cavity and placing a substrate defining an airbag door into the mold cavity to define first and second cavities. A first material is injected into the first cavity to form an airbag chute for mounting the airbag assembly, and a second material is injected into the second cavity to form a hinge for retaining the airbag door on the substrate during deployment of an air bag.

New independent Claim 34 defines the invention as a method of forming an airbag assembly and trim component for a vehicle. The method includes providing a substrate defining an airbag door, the substrate having a passenger-compartment-facing first surface and a second surface opposite the first surface. Simultaneously, an outer layer is over-molded on the first surface of the substrate, and a hinge is over-molded on the second surface of the substrate, the hinge for retaining the airbag door on the substrate during deployment of an air bag.

New independent Claim 48 defines the invention as a method of forming an airbag assembly and trim component for a vehicle. The method includes providing a mold assembly having a mold cavity and placing a substrate defining an airbag door into the mold cavity to define first and second cavities, the substrate having a passenger-compartment-facing first surface and a second surface opposite the first surface. A first material is injected into the first cavity to form an outer layer on the first surface, and second material is injected into the second cavity to form a hinge on the second surface of the substrate, the hinge for retaining the airbag door on the substrate during deployment of an air bag.

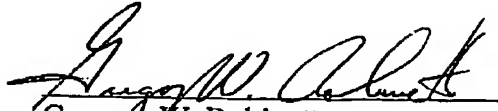
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The claimed invention is not shown or suggested in any of the art of record, individually or when combined. Specifically, the Gallagher et al. reference teaches a method of forming a tether layer on a substrate. The substrate may include a skin layer disposed thereon, but the Gallagher et al. reference is silent as to how the skin layer becomes disposed on the substrate (see column 11, lines 7 through 12). The Keiltyka et al. reference teaches a method of attaching a thermoplastic attachment to one side of a substrate. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, the Keiltyka et al. reference does not teach simultaneously over-molding two attachments to a substrate. To the contrary, the Keiltyka et al. reference teaches compression molding the upper surface (28) of the substrate (26) (to thereby form the substrate into a desired shape) and injection molding an attachment surface (20) on the lower surface (30) (see paragraph 18).

Thus, none of the cited references, alone or in combination, show or suggest (1) simultaneously over-molding an airbag chute for mounting the airbag assembly, and a hinge for retaining the airbag door on the substrate during deployment of an air bag, (2) placing a substrate defining an airbag door into the mold cavity to define first and second cavities, injecting a first material into the first cavity to form an airbag chute for mounting the airbag assembly, and injecting a second material into the second cavity to form a hinge for retaining the airbag door on the substrate during deployment of an air bag, (3) providing a substrate defining an airbag door, the substrate having a passenger-compartment-facing first surface and a second surface opposite the first surface, and simultaneously over-molding an outer layer on the first surface of the substrate and a hinge on the second surface of the substrate, or (4) placing a substrate defining an airbag door into the mold cavity to define first and second cavities, the substrate having a passenger-compartment-facing first surface and a second surface opposite the first surface, injecting a first material into the first cavity to form an outer layer on the first surface, and injecting a second material into the second cavity to form a hinge on the second surface of the substrate, as claimed.

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